

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for making a three-dimensional decoy, comprising:
photographing an animal to obtain an array of photographic views of the animal;
arranging the array of photographic views to create a single, flattened photograph-based view of the animal;
transferring the single, flattened photograph-based view to a screen;
printing the view from the screen onto a polymeric sheet;
providing a three-dimensional decoy mold;
positioning the plastic sheet over the three-dimensional decoy mold; and
heating and pressing the sheet with energy effective to soften the sheet so that the sheet takes the shape of the decoy mold.
2. The method of claim 1 and further including digitizing the array of photographic views.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the polymeric sheet is a polyethylene sheet.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheet is heated to a temperature of about 200°F.
5. The method of claim 1 and further including cooling the decoy formed sheet.
6. The method of claim 5 and further including removing the decoy formed sheet from the decoy mold.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the flattened view is formed with computer aided design.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheet is bonded to a mold comprised of a material such as Styrofoam.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheet is formed about the mold with a vacuum.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the flattened view is corrected to accommodate changes in sheet material such as stretching.
11. The method of claim 1 and further including embossing a surface of the polymeric sheet.
12. A decoy body formed by the method of claim 1.
13. A decoy comprising a flexible, three-dimensional main body, the main body illustrated with animal features having photographic detail.
14. The decoy of claim 13 wherein the animal features are printed features.
15. The decoy of claim 13 wherein a surface of the main body is embossed with animal features.
16. The decoy of claim 13 wherein the animal features are selected from a group consisting of ducks, geese, pheasants, deer, moose, antelope, squirrels and elk and similar animals.

17. The decoy of claim 13 wherein the animal features include the animal in a swimming position or the animal in a resting position.

18. A kit comprising a three-dimensional decoy main body that defines an orifice, the main body illustrated with animal features having photographic detail and a decoy head wherein the head terminates in a flange that is insertable in the orifice.

19. The kit of claim 18 and further including a plurality of heads with flanges insertable in the main body orifice.

20. The kit of claim 18 wherein the decoy is a duck or a goose decoy.